

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 19-21, and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-5, 11-12, and 15.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Brian H. Batzli (Reg. No. 32,960), at (612) 336.4755.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12 December 2001

By 2 - M)

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BHB:hjh

3955.114USWO

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3. A stabilisation system according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein each restraint face is curved.
4. A stabilisation system according to claim 1 [, 2 or 3] wherein each restraint face comprises a continuous face.
5. A stabilization system according to claim 1 [, 2 or 3] wherein each restraint face comprises a discontinuous face defined by a plurality of restraint zones disposed in the required configuration.
11. A restraint system according to claim 9 [or 10] wherein each restraint face comprises a continuous face.
12. A restraint device according to claim 9 [or 10] wherein each restraint device comprises a discontinuous face defined by a plurality of restraint zones disposed in the required configuration.

15. A stabilization system according to claim 8 wherein each end restraint comprises a restraint device [according to any one of claims 9 to 14] , which comprises a pair of restraint faces spaced apart to define a gap therebetween to receive a section of an elongate structure, each restraint face being configured to control curvature of the elongate structure during lateral deflection thereof, together with a collar structure adapted to be secured to the elongate structure and bear on the end restraint device to transfer axial loading thereto.

[19. A stabilisation system substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.]

[20. A restraint system substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.]

[21. A method for stabilizing a submarine elongate structure as substantially as herein described.]